Mat-Su Monitor
October 2011

Here, There Be Dragons

By Robert Rootes

Like any accomplished and struggling artist, Emily Gelino-Bequette has some reservations when it comes to talking about her work. Miss Gelino-Bequette was the winning artist for the Mat-Su College mascot design. Her Arctic Dragon design can be seen (and purchased in the Campus Cache) donning T-shirts, sweatshirts, and most likely other college memorabilia forthcoming.

A career college student, finishing her Bachelor of Arts, Gelino-Bequette is no stranger to hard work and artistic fortitude. A life-long Alaskan, she has a competitive streak that compliments her introverted reserve when it comes to talking about her artwork. Though her talents range from twelve years of figure skating to mastering Taekwondo, Gelino-Bequette is an aspiring fantasy writer and wants to pursue the intrinsic rewards of art when she finishes her major with a tentative minor of creative writing. Gelino-Bequette is a dedicated college student and very hopeful for the artistic future.

When asked as to the meaning of the Arctic Dragon, Gelino-Bequette feels that this mascot is not just the representative of the current co-ed basketball team at Mat-Su College, but will also lead the college into the future, building school and team spirit. The Arctic Dragons, she believes, are at the beginning of something and

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Valley Recycling Keeps it Green

By Spike Fisk

The Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) is a non-profit organization that works to recycle commonly used household items that would otherwise be put in a landfill. The staff of VCRS has recently put into effect a new policy where otherwise discarded plastics, numbers 3 through 7, are being accepted at the recycling center. “The reason that we took on the extra plastic was because

we realized it’s a huge amount of what’s going in the landfill,” said Jeffery Lisa Charvet, the Superintendent of Recourse Recovery. After discussing different options, they called a buyer to see if there was a market for this plastic. It’s not a huge market, but in the end VCRS breaks even for the cost of processing the new plastic and selling it to the buyer. Now they are accepting any other kind of light plastics

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Didn’t we Used to Have a Greenhouse?

By Jake Magoon

My first memories of the Michael Kelley memorial greenhouse, our greenhouse located in close proximity to Snodgrass Hall, came in the form of curiously enthused students.

Encountering such a student was a rare event for me, partially because the number of students utilizing courses offered in the greenhouse were few, due to the not insubstantial impact of lackluster promotional efforts, but it was also a rare occurrence when seen in the light of the underutilized greenhouse.

When I first heard the rumors swirling around campus about the possibility of our greenhouse being shipped to the

main campus in Anchorage, where there already exists a substantial greenhouse, I was determined to hit the hallways and ask those students who’d taken courses there what they thought of the program and its potential.

I also sat down and spoke with faculty and administration alike, so that, should the need arise, I might one day be able to provide an answer for my fellow students when they inevitably ask, “Hey, didn’t we used to have a greenhouse?”

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Donate to Leukemia Research

By Ahriel Porter

"There is an underappreciated truth about disease: it will harm you even if you never get it. Disease reverberates outward, and if the illness gets big enough it brushes everyone." N.R. Kleinfield

Did you know that leukemia causes about one-third of all cancer deaths in children younger than 15 years? (Leukemia and lymphoma society, facts 2010-2011) The cause of leukemia remains unknown. However, the effectiveness of recently developed treatment methods and steady advances in research brings us closer every day to finding the cause and probable cure of leukemia and related cancers.

This semester three students and one friend took on the challenge of raising money to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society reach their goal through Team in Training (TNT). This group raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, hoping to find a cure for blood related cancers.

Each volunteer has the task of raising a certain amount of money for the society; if their goal is met they are expected to run a marathon. They have made a commitment to bring us all 26.2 miles closer to providing hope, peace, and freedom to the individuals who battle blood cancer.

"I've never been truly touched by such a disease. God forbid such a thing ever happens to one of my friends or family members. I don't have a tear jerking story to draw forward your sympathy (or your money for that matter). In fact I take pride in recognizing that I do not need a disaster for my motivation. I made this decision knowing that I would have to start running again, but this time for a good cause. I'll have to push myself with every step I take, every drop of sweat, of tears."- Ahriel Porter

You can help support this program by contributing to any of the donation jars placed through out the college and Wasilla/Palmer area, or to donate a significant amount please contact the team.

Contact information:

Ahriel Porter

(907) 982-2668

ahriel.marie@hotmail.com

http://pages.teamintraining.org/wa/honolulu11/aportersli

Donating is tax deductible, contact the team for information on earing 100 Alaska Airline Miles!

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Assistant Professor of Renewable Energy

Matanuska-Susitna College is currently seeking a fulltime renewable energy professional to develop and teach in the college's new Renewable Energy Certificate Program!

Apply to UAKJobs.com (posting # 0062656) before 10/26/11

Visit the Mat-Su College website: **http://matsu.alaska.edu/**

Type in "Employment" on the MSC home page under the search option Select the link for "UAKJobs.com". UAKJobs.com is the university system electronic recruitment process that allows applicants to search for employment opportunities based on location, job type or job posting #.

University of Alaska—Anchorage Mat-Su College offers competitive compensation combined with excellent health care, tuition, leave and retirement benefits.

Please call Andrea Andrews with MSC Human Resource Services at (907) 745-9725 or by email: aandrews@matsu.alaska.edu for assistance

Mat-Su College

Mat-Su College is one of the most desirable places to work in the Valley!

The University of Alaska is an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in the application and screening process should contact the Mat-Su College Human Resource Services Coordinator at (907) 745-9725

Recycling

Continued from cover

except for rigid plastics like lawn chairs and kid's toys.

Number 1 and 2 plastic recyclables are still separated individually, but number 3 through 7 are grouped together. They must be separated because they are a different grade of plastics. They will start fires because they melt at a lower temperature.

The issue in the past with sorting the plastic recyclables is that there isnt astandard sign for each number. Some plastic will have the same number, but they have a different polymer. The American Plastic Council is working towards getting a standard, in order to make the numbers universal.

The new recycling center makes recycling these plastics even easier. The center is now more accessible than in the past, located at 9465 East Chanlyut Circle off of 49th State Street, next to the Central Landfill and the animal shelter. The building was fully functional by December 2010, and in that year 1,357 tons of bales were processed. This year, through the end of August alone, 917 tons of bales were processed.

When Jeffery Lisa Charvet began working at the old recycling center part time in 2009, the recycling center made $80,000 for income. In 2010 when she began to work full time as the Superintendent of Recourse Recovery, the recycling center made $240,000. Now in 2011, the projected net income is close to $500,000. This is great news for the recycling center as they continue to give back to the community and aid both individuals and businesses with their recycling needs. Remember: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Mat-Su Monitor would like to thank the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman for all of their support. Call (907) 352-2250 to learn about home delivery.

Mathematics of Thanksgiving

By Jake Magoon

Unless you're studying for an exam occurring the week following Thanksgiving break, most people tend not to associate mathematics and Thanksgiving together. Well, unless you're baking pumpkin pie from scratch, in which case, okay, perhaps we do use a little bit of math when determining ratios and weighing on a scale.

Then again, given the recent rapid and dramatic rise in global food prices, fueled in large part by financial speculation with basic essential commodities, perhaps we silently do a little math in our head of our own as we drive home from the grocery store in dumbstruck amazement at what Thanksgiving has done to our credit card balance this year.

Nonetheless, the word Thanksgiving typically conjures up images of Turkey, gorging, and family. But unfortunately for some of us, a traditional Thanksgiving, and even a Thanksgiving-light, has been priced well beyond our reach.

In steps the Mat-Su College Math Club. President Joey Hartman has taken it upon himself to partner with Student Government and, keeping with tradition, organize and promote a "Thanksgiving Basket" drive. This is the 15th year the Annual Thanksgiving Basket drive has been organized.

It works primarily in two ways: If you are a conscientious student or member of the community and you wish to give back and support those who may not be able to enjoy, or may have never had the opportunity to enjoy, traditional Thanksgiving, you will be provided the opportunity to donate food via bringing your donations to P.T. Chang's office in Snodgrass, room 103.

Should you know a family who could truly use a nice Thanksgiving meal, or should you yourself be a part of such a family, send nominations to Joey Hartman at mathclubmsc@gmail, Jake Magoon at liemeux@yahoo.com, and P.T. Chang at pfpc@uaa.alaska.edu.

Please note: All nominations are STRICTLY confidential, and self-nominations are also accepted! Also include family size, how many children are in the family, address and directions, as well as the phone number of the family and your own phone number, in case the nominee cannot be reached.

Lastly, never forget that if you'd like to take a more personal, hands on approach to providing families with a wholesome Thanksgiving, you need only show up to Math Club meetings in Snodgrass 103 at 1:00 pm on Mondays and 2:30 PM on Tuesdays. Volunteers are welcomed and appreciated.

In addition to the Thanksgiving drive, the Mat-Su Math Club will also be providing bake sales for the student body during the latter parts of the semester. Specifically, November 7th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and December 5th, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

According to the math, rates of poverty and hunger in the United States are at levels that have not been seen for many years. This Thanksgiving, please consider being thankful for your good fortune and coming together to change the equation.

Info Sessions on Allied Health Services and Nursing

By Kim Bloomstrom

As a child, did you ever dream about being a firefighter or a nurse? Did those dreams follow you into adulthood? If so, Mat-Su College is offering some information sessions that might be of interest to you.

On October 24 from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M., Tory Volden, Student Success Coordinator for the UAA School of Nursing will be holding an info session in FSM 206.

Topics will include information on matters relating to the application process, the difference between the AAS and BS degrees, the various pathways into the nursing program, and much more. Nursing shortages are at an all-time high with over a million positions being needed by 2016 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

On November 9, from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M., Lynda Hernandez, Student Success Coordinator for Allied Health Services at UAA will be holding an info session in SNOD 118. If you are interested in exploring a career in firefighting, dental assisting, radiologic technology, dental hygiene, medical assisting, phlebotomy, medical laboratory, or emergency services, this event is for you! Following her presentation, Lynda will be available to answer questions.

For more information, or to reserve your place in a one-on-one advising session with Tory from the School of Nursing, call Rhonda at 745-9762.

What Really Happens in Student Government?

By Denise Reeve

Have you ever wondered what happens to the $5 or $10 fee you pay to Mat-Su Student Government each semester? Allow me to satisfy your curiosity! Wednesday, October 6th from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, your student government purchased all of the supplies, and organized, with help from some of the Mat-Su College faculty & staff, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Team ART, and the Mat-Su Metl Hedz (metalsmith club), the fabulous Student Appreciation Barbecue.

Chris Wetzler (Phi Theta Kappa) personally prepared and specially seasoned 508 hamburgers to be cooked for any person who walked by. This amazing feat took two days!

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The Mat-Su Monitor Wants You!

If you would like an outlet for your writing look no further!
The Mat-Su Monitor is looking for writers who would like to see their work published!

For more information about how you can get involved in the Mat-Su Monitor, contact Dr. Pete Praetorius.

matsumonitor@gmail.com

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA COLLEGE

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Greenhouse

Continued from cover

The contours of the initial picture I received about the future of our greenhouse from rumors heard around campus were fuzzy at best. Some students told me that they heard the memorial greenhouse was to be dismantled and shipped to UAF.

Others spoke of what I would find out later to be a real possibility, which is to say, moving our greenhouse to the UAF extension in Palmer, not far from campus. Still others assured me that plans were in motion to have the greenhouse removed from campus by the main campus at UAA, serving perhaps as the first new addition in a growing collection of greenhouses.

One theme rebounded throughout the student body, no matter the student: if they utilized the program, they absolutely loved the experience. Furthermore, when polled as to whether they saw potential for further future utilization of the greenhouse via the creation of additional courses, many students volunteered additional course ideas without even being prompted.

And, amongst those students who believed the greenhouse was to be shipped to UAA, there existed a strong undercurrent of belief which suspected that this would not be happening if we were not regarded as "different" by our main campus counterparts in Anchorage by virtue of our status as a community college. My curiosity satisfied in regards to student opinions and rumors, I set out to find as close to the truth on this matter as I could from interested faculty and administration.

I first sat down and talked with Dr. Robert Dubey of the Natural and Physical Science department. Some of you reading this now may have taken Biology classes with him. Upon sitting down with him, there existed two primary questions that everyone with whom I had spoke wanted to know: If it is true that our greenhouse is under consideration for removal, where are the potential spots of relocation? And second, why is this happening in the first place?

In response to my first question, Dr. Dubey provided what, at first glance seemed like an unsatisfying answer, but which when considered, was absolutely logical. As the options for relocation are currently being considered, it simply isn't possible to make any kind of determination in regards to the potential sites of relocation, given how those sites are still being considered.

Fair enough, I thought. However, when asked as to the motivation behind these discussions, I received hints which would carry me through to two further interviews. The issue of our greenhouse's future appears to be tied directly to three main issues: Cost, utilization, and location. Echoing rumors I'd heard earlier from the student body, and using a phrase I would hear later from the administration, the greenhouse as it is currently utilized is seen as a case of, "We built it and they didn't come."

Before thanking Dr. Dubey for his time and leaving, I asked him whether or not the greenhouse could be of any specific use to the science department. Evidently, the science department, could also serve to benefit from the existence of a greenhouse within a reasonable proximity of campus.

I next interviewed took our Director, Dr. Talis Colberg. Upon speaking with the Dr. Colberg, I learned that, of those students to whom I had spoke, who favored the theory that our greenhouse is to be moved to the main campus in Anchorage stand to have perhaps the best chance of being correct.

According to Dr. Colberg, the first proposal denied the greenhouse use even in a far off location, and its total demolition was considered. Giving perhaps a whiff of hope to those students who felt that our unequal power-relations with Anchorage might result in an injustice occurring, Dr. Colberg hinted at the total level of influence our very own administration has in this matter being limited, and that in some sense, "Our hands are tied."

The office known as, "Facilities, Planning, and Construction", headquartered in Anchorage, is intimately involved with projects of over $25,000 in value, which the greenhouse far exceeds. Dr. Colberg was also able to confirm that, due to the under-utilization of the greenhouse, the total cost of the greenhouse to this day far exceeds the revenue it provides.

In addition to the financial burden posed by under utilization, there is an expansion in the works to provide additional resources and services to the booming nursing and EMT program.

I would later discover via my interview with Harlen Harmon, there exists no feasible alternative to the planned expansion aside from the location which is currently occupied by our greenhouse. In response to my mentioning rumors as to the potential for keeping the greenhouse in the valley and available to Mat-Su students via the UAF expansion, the response I received indicated that additional measures and channels would have to be taken in order to pursue that type of cross-university cooperation.

The last individual with whom I spoke was Harlen Harmon. director of administrative services. You may recognize him as a man who walks through campus with purpose.
I knew that I was in for a treat when, seconds after my sitting down in preparation for our interview, this well-prepared man pulled out maps of the campus, and began to explain the realities on the ground as they appear from his position. Perhaps like many of you, I did not realize until I spoke with Harlen that Snodgrass Hall was built in 1992 with an agricultural purpose in mind.

By 1995, the building was occupied, and just two short years later, the agricultural program was discontinued. Once again I heard the phrase, "We built it and they didn't come." In regards to the greenhouse, the issue of expense and location once again appeared to dominate the considerations Surveying the maps under his guidance, I could see hiss

» See Greenhouse (continued) **Page 6**

Planting Ideas: Save our Greenhouse

If you wish to see our greenhouse remain in the Valley here are a few things you can do:

>> First, sign up for courses offered in the greenhouse, and encourage others to do so as well.

>> Second, express interest in additional courses which could be offered in the greenhouse.

>> Last, contact your instructors, the administration here at Mat-Su College, and call the UAA administration, to let them know that you'd like to see our greenhouse remain in the Valley

Mascot Logo

Continued from cover

Gelino-Bequette is proud to bring the Mat-Su mascot to life. The Arctic Dragon was the spawn of a college wide contest, a search for the perfect representation of the Mat-Su College moniker. When the tally came in, there was an overwhelming vote for the dragon. Gelino-Bequette and another student were tapped to submit graphic designs for the mascot. In the end, Gelino-Bequette's minimalist, sleek two-dimensional design prevailed.

Once the two-dimensional Arctic Dragon logo was approved and shipped off to the graphic designers, Gelino-Bequette's next project was to bring a three-dimensional dragon into existence. The art project began simply enough as a sketch that flourished into an excited group project.

It quickly became clear that the creation would be whittled-down to the artist and one other student, and Gelino-Bequette herself. creating the dragon in a piece-meal fashion until its birth.

Taking into account the physical palpability, Gelino-Bequette built the dragon's skeletal backbone, pelvis and shoulders out of PVC pipe and expanded the physique from salvaged copper and steel wire, recycled newspaper, and finished the façade with Elmer's Glue based papier-mâché. The skin is a complimentary blend of spray paint. The completed sparkling teal winged dragon was off-handedly named, Mordecai.

Let's Go Team Art!

By Theresa Thomas

Wow! Bring your storage boxes, paintbrushes, watercolors, charcoal, drawing pencils, color pencils, sketchpad, and erasers over to Team Art! Team Art would like you to show off your artistic side and go wild with color and imagination.

We want your ideas and smiling faces to help Team Art in our effort to create a thriving local artistic community, built upon the values of creativity and shared experience.

"Team Art is still in the process of organizing members and setting up a better meeting time," says Andrea Bennett. Bennett is a candidate running for President who has made an announcement about an election for officers' positions.

If you are interested in running for an officer position, come talk to Suzanne Bach who is Team Art Club Advisor for further information. Meeting time for Team Art is Tuesday 12:00-12:45 P.M. in room 212FSM.

Team Art has also set up their own email address: matsuart@yahoo.com, or find them on Facebook as Mat-Su Art Club "team art." Team Art is now utilizing the broad potential for social networking services via enabling you to vote for club officers on Facebook. Hope to see you there!

Celebrate Success!

By Chris Wetzler

The Beta Sigma Epsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Matanuska-Susitna College has reason to celebrate, as thirteen new members attended the October 6, 2011 Fall Induction Ceremony. I am excited to report that our membership for this year grew by a total of forty-two!

A crowd of approximately forty people led by Mat-Su College Director Dr. Talis Colberg were present to help congratulate these honor students for their academic success. On behalf of Dr. Colberg, the staff and faculty at Mat-Su College, and especially the family and friends of the new members, I wish to congratulate all of our new Phi Theta Kappans.

As one of the chapter officers helping to organize the 2011 Induction Ceremony, I am reminded of my experience as a new Phi Theta Kappa member when I was inducted in January 2010. I can remember the nervous excitement I had, and the feeling of pride that came from being invited into such a prestigious organization that has over two million members.

It was personally rewarding for me to help the new members as they were being lined up before the ceremony started, and to have the opportunity to explain what they would be doing during the ceremony. I was also excited to hear from people like Dr. Galina Peck, an English and Humanities professor here at the college; she was proud to see one of her students being honored at the ceremony.

I believe in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society mission to support two-year college honor students, and it was great to be a part of this effort.

Greenhouse (Continued)

dilemma: Section lines to the right, and nowhere else to go.

I asked, once again, about the UAF extension alternative, and heard a phrase I found especially interesting in the context of student services: University asset. Reasonable points were also made, however, in regards to the additional costs moving the greenhouse to the extension would incur, such as putting it into an operational state, laying slab, etc. However, as a self-described "Old farm boy," Harlen expressed great sympathy for the idea of the greenhouse program, and suggested possible alternatives, such as a mobile cold frame greenhouse in the future.

Though the position of the decision-makers involved comes across as both understandable and reasonable, the fact remains that one of the single strongest themes I encountered again and again in regards to its removal from Mat-Su campus was cost. And this cost can be tied directly to its under-utilization, and according to some with whom I spoke, lackluster promotion.

If you are reading this and are a student, or are a parent of a student, or a Valley community member who wishes to see our greenhouse remain in the valley, then there are a few things you can do. First, sign up for courses offered in the greenhouse, and encourage others to do so as well. Second, express interest in additional courses which could be offered in the greenhouse. Last, contact your instructors, the administration here at Mat-Su college, and call the UAA administration, and let them know that you'd like to see our greenhouse remain in the agricultural epicenter of Alaska known as the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. While we may yet have the opportunity to enjoy what the greenhouse has to offer, future generations in the valley don't have much time. It's scheduled for relocation in March, 2012.

Mat-Su College Faculty Highlight

By Theresa Thomas

Have you ever wondered about who the faculty and staff that make your education possible really are? This article highlights two such individuals, Micah Muar and Deidre Berberich.

Micah Muar is a part of the librarian staff. His job is to help students with library research and help some instructors with technology. At times he goes around to classrooms to talk about what new resources the library has and how to find the research.

Micah was born in June,1984 and raised in Minnesota by the twin cities. He attended University of Minnesota and got his Master's in Liberian Studies at Wisconsin University. Micah also likes history, but that was not the main reason why he became a Librarian.

He enjoys getting a scare from ghost books, science fiction, and when in a more contemplative mood, he enjoys the classics. One of his favorite books is Growth of Soil by Knut Hamsun. Outside of work, Micah likes to go hike with his dog Bera.

Micah also enjoys watching animal documentaries, and is especially fond of metal and folk music.

Micah wants to try crosscountry skiing, and travel to Europe or central Europe to explore the agriculture. Micah also likes to travel to the cities of China and see the beautiful country side. Go meet Micah in the library; he will help you with your research projects, and if you're lucky, he might even share with you some of his favorite books to check out.

Deidre Berberich has been an adjunct faculty member since January, 1988, at Mat-Su College. She was born in Kansas, but moved up to Kodak, Alaska when she was three-years old.

During high school, Deidre wanted to become a pediatrician, but she took two years of accounting in high school and fell in love with it. She graduated from Palmer High School in 1980 and attended Kansas State University until her graduation in 1984.

A year later she received her Master's Degree in Accounting. Besides being an Accounting Professor at the college, she also owns an accounting business. When Deidre isn't teaching, she walks marathons and loves to knit, especially socks and hats. She reads history and enjoys keeping up on current events, and all of her three children are attending Washington College.

Also like Micah, she loves to travel. Deidre has been to Paris, France and loves Europe. Make sure to come see Deidre Berberich about financials and other matters including accounting! Both faculty members are really hard-working and are wonderful conversationalists. If you have time to get to know them, you'll enjoy the stories they have to share.

Government

Continued from page 4

The burgers, hotdogs, baked beans, soda, and side dishes were all paid for with your fee. A bargain for sure!

Mat-Su Student Government also provides refreshments during finals week to help keep everyone encouraged during a busy period.

Aside from food, Mat-Su Student Government does a lot that you should be aware of. Any person who attends three consecutive meetings can request to become a Senator and help to make decisions on what activities happen on campus for the benefit of all of the students. Student clubs are recognized and often assisted by members of student government. Each duly recognized club selects and sends a person to represent them during the student government weekly meetings (Wednesdays from 11:50 am to 1:00pm).

Each senator and representative has one vote on pertinent matters put before the governing group. Not much of interest happens on campus without the direction (and/or funding) of student government.

I have been active in student government for the last six semesters, along with many other students on campus. Events like the Student Appreciation Barbecue do not happen without volunteers. Do you have a great idea or two you might like to see happen on campus, student government is the place to discuss possibilities and create opportunities for fun and camaraderie at our school. Are you enthusiastic and outgoing? I invite you to join us on any Wednesday; student government just might be the place for someone talented like you.

Mat-Su College's Hidden Arboretum

By Mat-Su Carbon Crew

The Matanuska-Susitna College Nature Trail is a mile and a half of education, exercise, and aesthetic pleasure. As part of MSC's 950-acre campus, the trail system winds through 60 acres dedicated to agricultural research in Alaska. For horticultural buffs, plants have been identified, and soil pits display Alaska's various soil structures. An experimental tree planting area is another point of interest. The trails are designed to attract seasoned hikers, leisurely strollers. Wheelchair ramblers can reach the observatory deck from Snodgrass Hall. Wood chip covered paths make walking easy, but vigorous exercisers may want to challenge the steeper paths.

Summer and winter, the trail presents uncommon opportunities for artists and photographers. Benches at scenic spots invite one to rest and admire the valley's splendid mountain panorama: Twin Peaks, Pioneer Peak, Knik Glacier, Bodenburg Butte, the Talkeetnas. The observation deck, a short easy walk from Snodgrass Hall, overlooks peaceful Okeson Pond. Schools and the general public are encouraged to use and enjoy the trails. We ask only that visitors respect the environment by not littering or harming the area.

Views one may experience are detailed in the following descriptions.

LAZY MOUNTAIN and OKESON POND

LAZY MOUNTAIN: elev. 3,720 feet.

From the Observatory Deck is an excellent view over Okeson Pond and the "U-shaped" Matanuska Valley. The Talkeetna Mountains are to the left (summertime views will not allow you to view these mountains when the trees are leafed out) and the Chugach Mountain Range is in the front and on the right. The Chugach Mountains have nunataks, which is an Eskimo word for jagged, sharp peaks. During the early Ice Age, the nunataks would have been above the ice and the rounded peaks were below the ice. The nunataks stood out as landmarks.

The Eagle River Thrust Fault is seen approximately one-third of the way up the mountainside. Straight ahead, Mt. Byers can be seen. It is also known as Matansuka Peak. It is in the middle stages of becoming a horn, such as the Matterhorn in Switzerland. Horns are typically three or four sided, and are quite stable concerning erosion. They have become too steep to support ice or soil. It was a nunatak in the ice ages. Lazy Mountain, approximately 6½ miles away, is the rounded mountain to the left of Byers. It is sliced by several faults that have created "benches." Climbers call the benches "false summits." Lazy Mountain is an excellent day hike. Its general rounded appearance results from total submergence under ice.

Palmer and McRoberts Creeks flow from the canyon on the right side of Lazy Mountain, and have cut the bottom of the U-shaped glaciated valley (this is also a hanging valley) from which they head. Hanging valleys were formed by smaller valley glaciers that flowed into the vast Matanuska Trunk Glacier. Upon removal of the ice, valleys end abruptly high up the mountain. The most famous hanging valley is in Yosemite National Park. The creek valleys are sharply V-shaped and house swift streams. Pasture land is visible above the timberland.

TWIN PEAKS

EAST TWIN PEAK, elev. 5,873 feet; WEST TWIN PEAK, elev. 5,401feet.

The Eagle River Thrust Fault, which is roughly parallel to the Border Ranges Fault, can be seen on the right of the ridge line. Cirques (amphitheater-like recesses) can also be seen to the right and to the left of the craggy peaks. Twin Peaks is approximately 10 miles away. Just above the timber line is an old road or trail. A cross-fault goes up the right shoulder to the peak in an arc, while on the left the structural grain of the mountain is visible.

Hanging valleys, cirques, cols, arêtes, truncated spurs and other glacially carved features can be seen on the peaks. The most striking feature of Twin Peaks is that they are not shaped like most of the mountains in the Chugach Range. The norm is somewhat the shape of the United States capitol building, dome shaped in the middle and flanked on each side by a lower flat portion. Pioneer Peak is a classic, and is formed like Mt. St. Elias and others in the Southeast. Note on the right shoulder an arcing scarp that swings up between the peaks. This is a cross fault that truncated the dome.

Eklutna Lakeis directly behind the peaks. The tunnel to the electric generating plant is cut through these peaks. The Eagle River Thrust Fault can be reached by trail and the Border Ranges Fault is almost at road level at the base of Twin Peaks. The Border Ranges Fault is the North boundary of the Chugach Terrane and marks the South boundary of Peninsular Terrane. The Matanuska Valley is located on

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Nature Trail

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located on the Peninsular Terrane. There is an interesting hike into sheep country that leads up the South side of the Twin Peaks. That trail head is at the camping facility at Eklutna Lake.

OKESON POND

This area might be called tundra, muskeg, bog, pond, swamp, or several other terms. It is most accurately called a bog. It is a carpet of various mosses and lichens among stunted grasses, shrubs and flowering plants. In a few square feet, one may find dwarf birch, Labrador tea, bog rosemary, leatherleaf, alpine azalea, starry cassiope, tundra cotton, bearberry, cloud berry, bog blueberry, and mountain cranberry just for starters. Black spruce ("swamp spruce"), birch and alders lead a precarious existence in this area. As can be seen, some spruce and birch lived for years and then died. More water than usual may have been the cause.

Sphagnum moss constitutes most of the volume of the floating mat. The mat gradually grows to cover the water. With a certain depth and moisture conditions, it can sink and another mat begins. Repeated layers of mat eventually become peat. There are vast deposits of peat in this part of Alaska. Peat varies in dust content and in burning quality. In addition to the flora, this bog is home or hotel to frogs, muskrats, ducks, spruce hens and many other species of birds, it is home to some of the most dedicated mosquitoes in North America.

PIONEER PEAK

Elevation 6,398 feet

Pioneer Peak, approximately 8 miles away, is the mountain toward the South with a large avalanche area. Just above the visible avalanche area is the Eagle River Thrust Fault line. The Chugach Mountain Range is formed from Jurassic and Cretaceous Metamorphic rock (approximately 65 to 136 million years old) that originated on the ocean bottom. Metamorphic rocks are rocks that are formed under tremendous heat and pressure. The lower part of the mountain is the McHugh Complex Rock Formation. Two distinct landslide areas can be seen on the face of the mountain, as well as the avalanche area on the right. This slide blocked the Old Glenn Highway during the 1964 earthquake and prevented travel between Anchorage and Palmer. The Glenn Highway across the tidal flats was built after 1964. Glacial cirques (amphitheater-like recesses in the mountain side) are seen up high and to the left.

KNIK GLACIER

Knik Glacier, a mountain valley glacier, can be seen in the background and is located in the Chugach Mountain Range. Glacial cirques can also be viewed above the glacier, as well as in back of the glacier. Two tributary glaciers on either side of Knik Glacier can be seen. The melt water from Knik Glacier furnishes a great deal of the water in the Knik River.

BODENBURG BUTTE

Elevation 881 feet (2890 meters)

Bodenburg Butte, locally called "The Butte," is approximately 4½ miles away. It is composed of quartz diorite (similar to granite). It was formed deep in the earth from molten rock, and has been uplifted to the surface. Bodenburg and similar buttes in glaciated areas are called "roche moutonnees." The French country people likened the shape of rock formations similar to Bodenburg to the sheep that they herded. As glaciers advance over the up-glacier end of an outcrop, they carve a gentle slope. The ice is partially melted by friction. As the ice tumbles over the down-glacier end of the rock, it seeps into cracks, refreezes and plucks out chunks of rock. The down-glacier side is rougher and much steeper. This

can be seen at Bodenburg and at the butte at the Matanuska River on the Glenn Highway. Bodenburg Butte is a short and very rewarding climb; access is off the Bodenburg Butte Road from the Old Glenn Highway southeast of Palmer.

MAT-SU COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL and AGRICULTURE WOOD LOT

The 60-acre tract of MSC Campus was set aside for an outdoor educational laboratory by the Board of Regents with management designated to the MSC Agriculture Department. Funding for development was provided through natural resources grants from the Land Grant Trust Fund of the University of Alaska.

Mat-Su College also appreciates the efforts and continued support of the following contributors:

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Book Review: The Art of Racing in the Rain

By Ahriel Porter

"In Mongolia, when a dog dies, he is buried high in the hills so people cannot walk on his grave. The dog's master whispers into the dog's ear his wishes that the dog will return as a man in his next life. Then his tail is cut off and put beneath his head, and a piece of meat or fat is placed in his mouth to sustain his soul on its journey; before he is reincarnated, the dog's soul is freed to travel the land, to run across the high desert plains for as long as it would like.

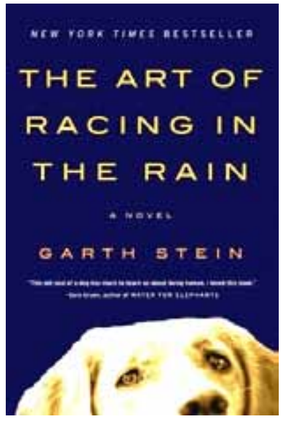
I learned that from a program on the National Geographic channel, so I believe it is true. Not all dogs return as men, they say; only those who are ready.

I am ready."

- The Art of Racing in the Rain.

Enzo is a responsible dog; he respects his master, does his business when asked to, and has a soft fury shoulder to cry on. He's not like other dogs; he's gained wisdom from the television and has observed human characteristics in order to become a better man himself, when the time comes. His caring personality makes him a lovable main character that you can't help but admire. The only thing he asks for in return is that you leave the TV on before you leave for work.

Enzo's master, Denny, drives a racecar for a living. Through his years of studying the art, Enzo learns that the rules of racing can apply to life as well as on the track. He knows that his job as a dog is to comfort and protect. He is not about to let anybody down, especially Denny, whom he loves even more than his beloved pancakes. He wants more than anything to return to this



earth as a man and shake Denny's hand, if only to use an opposable thumb.

There is no interview for one of the most difficult jobs in the world. What does it take to be mans best friend? Can you really appreciate the unconditional love that your pet offers?

The book The Art of Racing in the Rain will remind you just how important you are to your dog, and vise versa. Open this book and you will find a story that will surely pull at your heart, one that will humble you, and help you realize how fragile we all are, human or beast.

Play Review: It Runs in the Family

By Ahriel Porter

It's only three days before Christmas and the staff of a London hospital is getting ready for their annual holiday show. Spirits are high in the doctor's lounge, the holiday spirit in everybody's heart.

Well, almost everybody. Dr. David Mortimer is a man of confidence. The responsibility of delivering a lecture that will provide his the hospital with necessary finances has been placed on his shoulders. He doesn't have time for the annual show; he needs to practice. If only he could do so without interruption…

Everything seems to be going wrong for the doctor at the most inconvenient time. His attention is demanded by his boss, staff, even his wife. Not to mention the former nurse and lover of his, Ms. Tate, who appeared from nowhere after 18 years "and nine months" to introduce him to his unknown daughter.

''It Runs Through the Family'' is a witty comedy surely to have you laughing out loud. It has the "I Love Lucy" domino effect of hidden secrets adding up while Dr. Mortimer is desperately trying to hide it all. This unfortunate façade has him running in circles, all the while trying to rehearse his speech.

As Steven J. Impons first lead role, I'd say he made a brilliant Dr. Mortimer. His depiction of the doctor's undaunted personality carried the audience away in a world of childish humor as his character tried boldly to hide his mistakes from his co-workers and loving wife.

I must also acknowledge and appreciate Heather Berger, as she performed the curious and thoughtful Mrs. Rosemary Mortimer with grace. I would never have guessed that this was her first VPA performance.

From the moment I received the tickets for VPA my expectations were high. The last show I saw performed in the theater was One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, a more serious drama.

The contrast between the two plays is undeniable. I believe that it takes true talent to project such different atmospheres as desired. The VPA cast and crew, volunteers from our very own town, come together as thespians, backstage helpers, artists and directors to display their love for entertainment. They help us find another small piece of ourselves one play at a time. This performance was no exception; I was not let down.

Play Review: The Woman in Black

By Ahriel Porter

Just in time for Halloween, Valley Performing Arts has put together a chilling ghost story. Imagine yourself caught in a horror movie, the characters have come to life and reality seems far away. Arthur Kipps, a solicitor, is sent to a small market town to appear at the funeral of an elderly widow, Mrs. Alice Drablow.

It's at the funeral that Kipps sees the woman dressed in black for the first time. Though she was dressed appropriately for such an occasion, she looked out of place with her pale and wasted face.

» See Play Review **Page 11**

Play Review

Continued from page 10

The mysterious woman in black continues to appear throughout Kipps' visit. Her story, it seems, is too devastating for the locals to share.

Kipps finds himself lost in a world of heart pounding terror while he struggles to to understand just what happened near Mrs. Drablow's secluded home.

The most interesting and impressive part of this performance is the fact that the cast consists of only two men: Ted Carney as Arthur Kipps, and D J Rotach as an actor who portrayed a variety of characters.

On a stage within a stage, the men practiced the horrific story that Arthur Kipps needs to share with his family and friends by living it again. The two actors showed great talent as they transformed from character to character in order to display the disturbing tale.

It's important to remember that behind the two-person cast was a rather large and talented production crew. Director Grant Olson, with the help of assistant director Rae Cunningham and their crew, painted the grim, eerie atmosphere, sure to send goose bumps up your arms. The play itself has everything you could ask for in a ghost story: A mystery, suspense, and even a dark twist at the very end. It's a definite must see.

Crash Alaska Tour

By Alan MacDonald

Looking for something to do on Halloween weekend? Look no further! Why not join Dylan DeBusk, as he comes back to his home state of Alaska for the "Crash Alaska Tour."

Dylan, who was born in Anchorage, was raised in the Palmer/Wasilla area of the valley, and is a graduate of Valley Pathways alternative High school. After graduating from high school, he eventually found himself going to Mat-Su Community College.

While here, he became involved in many activities at the college, including becoming vice president of the Carbon Crew, and was an active member of the Mat-Su veterans club. Right now he is living in Seattle, Washington attending Shoreline Community College to get his digital audio degree.

On October 27th through the 31st, Dylan will be touring around Anchorage and the Mat-Su valley. The tour kicks off in Anchorage on the 27th at the Taproot, and then he performs on the 28th at one of the biggest events to hit Alaska, the SnoWhite Halloween Massive, at the Egan Center. This concert is a massive all ages Halloween party that will be likely to shake the streets of Anchorage.

With an extensive list of special guest, this event will likely be an experience to remember. The 29th is especially a big day for Dylan as he will be releasing his first mix tape titled "Coal under Pressure" and they will have a CD release party at The Rock in Wasilla featuring special guest iLL Minded Gawd.

This is Dylan's first album through which he would like to get his music onto the radio. He has plans for a second album where he comes out and speaks his mind in hopes that people will take interest and listen.

On their way to the Valley, they will crash bars and coffee shops, pretty much anywhere they can get, to do shows. Hence the name: "Crash Alaska Tour." On the 30th through the 31st, they will be going around crashing more venues between the Valley and Anchorage. Dylan also mentioned there are plans in the works for another "Crash Alaska Tour" sometime next year, possibly close to spring.

Dylan is an inspiration to all young Alaskan musicians. He shows that with hard work and dedication you can get your music out there and pursue your dreams.

Pictured: Dylan Debusk

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